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The lands "exchanged" will amount to 255 - 265 square miles. A part of the Lublin area, in the vicinity of Sokal, goes to the USSR (Soviet Ukraine), and part of the Sanok area previously taken by Moscow, in the direction of Dobromil, Sambor, and Turk, will go to Poland.

The regime's newspapers are making a mountain out of a molehill in this matter. They claim that "Poland gave up" an agricultural area, and gained in return an area highly industrialized (petroleum). This is highly exaggerated.

CLAIMS USSR RETAINS OIL FIELDS -- Mannheim, Ostatnie Wiadomosci, 30 May 51

The London Dziennik Polski reports that a land-exchange agreement signed by Vice-Premier A. Zawadzki for Poland and A. Vishinskiy for the USSR has been kept secret for the last 3 months. The paper states that the land given to Poland extends just 20 kilometers beyond the Soviet border and does not include the valuable petroleum deposits in Drohobycz and Boryslaw, because these are about 60 kilometers from the present Soviet border. It is not known exactly what the USSR will surrender in the Drohobycz area. Most likely it will be the area lying in the vicinity of Chyrow or in the Ustrzyki Dolne region.

SEFS ALARMING PRECEDENT IN BORDER CHANGE -- Mannheim, Ostatnie Wiadomosci, 1 Jun 51

Communist propaganda speaks of the great "generosity" of the USSR, which in exchange for a small area, supposedly of little value, located in Lublin Wojewodztwo near the border, is giving Poland an area containing petroleum and beech forests -- an area which originally belonged to Poland. This entire matter brings to mind that anecdote about the thief who sold the stolen watch back to its owner.

At a glance, it would seem that it is not too important where the boundary line runs between the USSR and Poland because Poland is ruled by the USSR anyway; nevertheless, this incident creates uneasiness since it proves that the USSR is already treating the Polish border as its own internal border, separating one administrative region from another.

The boundary line between Poland and USSR has become a movable one. All pretenses to border agreements have lost their meaning. A very significant and alarming precedent has been established.

The new border agreement provides for the resettlement of the population now residing in the area given over to the USSR. As the population there are mostly farmers, this will be a great shock to them. Probably a majority of the people will be directed to work in industries, located deep in the interior of Poland, to help exploit new strategic materials.

The regime announced that "the government will make every effort to see that the resettling will be made most efficiently, and with due regard to the interests of the residents. It assures them that their living conditions will, at least, "be comparable to their present ones." There is little hope of this.

The news about the new border agreement was accepted by the Polish people with great indignation. No matter how bad the living conditions may be, or how evil the political situation, all these hardships can be borne by the people provided they have a feeling of stability. The usual comments made were: "How do we know that in a few months from now we will not be moved again? After all this, is it not possible that one day the regime will request the USSR to move the entire Polish population somewhere to Kazakhstan or even to Siberia?"

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The reason given by the official communique for the land exchange was "economic pressure of these sectors on the adjoining areas of the USSR and Poland." Actually, this whole matter resulted from the strategic needs of the USSR. For a long time now, the border area between Poland and the USSR has been fortified. There is a vast defense zone from which the population on the Polish side and the Soviet side has been evacuated. The fortifications in general follow the Bug River, along the former Curzon line, but with a wide deviation in either direction.

Soon attention will be focused on the Oder-Neisse boundary of Poland. Unfortunately, Poland's boundaries are of interest only to Poland's enemies. The West is indifferent to the border changes which took place recently between Poland and the USSR. Here was the perfect occasion for the West to come to the fore on the matter of outrages perpetrated systematically in east-central Europe. To be silent on the eviction of thousands of families from their homes in peace-time implies tacit assent to this crime against humanity.

This outrage again proves that conditions existing at present in Poland arise in no sense from the Polish state or the Polish people, and that the USSR is more and more openly ruling the roost in Poland. For Poland, the only bounds are the bounds of Soviet violence and oppression.

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